



A veteran educator, speaker, and group leader with 25 years of teaching experience and is a full professor of English at Brookdale Community College and has taught at Stockton University, Ramapo College, and Sierra Nevada college. She specializes in trauma-informed, emotionally literate "human skills" infused curriculum and workshops, emphasizing intra- and interpersonal development to help students find meaning and purpose. Laura's teaching spans writing, research, critical theory, and creative writing, always focusing on the human journey of self-discovery through language and cross-disciplinary inquiry.

Believing that intra- and interpersonal skills are at the core of meaning-making and developing a sense of purpose in students, Laura recognizes and respects that people are always in the process of moving more fully into themselves. By using language and the confluence of the Humanities with current advances in the sciences, Laura helps students understand where they came from, who they are, and who they might become. Her teaching and mentorship are trauma-informed and emotionally safe, while being growth-focused in terms of craft and the lived life of the writer.

Laura has numerous books and publications in both poetry and transformative practices focusing on emotional literacy, narrative theory, conflict transformation, and trauma awareness. She is an inaugural fellow in Brookdale's Center for Transformative Learning, created the peer support network CONNECTIONS (Collaborative network for educators: teaching, inspiration, outreach, and support), and is a candidate for the Doctorate in Medical Humanities at Drew University with a focus on care ethics, intergenerational inherited trauma, and narrative theory.

Her poetry collections include the forthcoming, *The Resurrection Jar*, *Women & Other Hostages*, *The Wild Night Dress*, *Jersey Mercy*, *Rigger Death & Hoist Another*, *Panic*, *Speech Acts*, *What Men Want*, and *The Dancing Bear*. Her work has appeared in prestigious journals such as *Best American Poetry*, *Georgia Review*, *American Poetry Review*, and many others, and she has received numerous scholarships and fellowships from renowned institutions like the Bread Loaf Writers Conference, the Virginia Center for the Arts, the Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center, Sewanee, and the Vermont Studio Center and has received three NJ State Arts Council Fellowships. In addition to her creative work, Laura is a respected literary scholar, having edited two anthologies: *A Sense of Regard: Essays on Poetry & Race* and *The Room and the World: Essays on Stephen Dunn*.